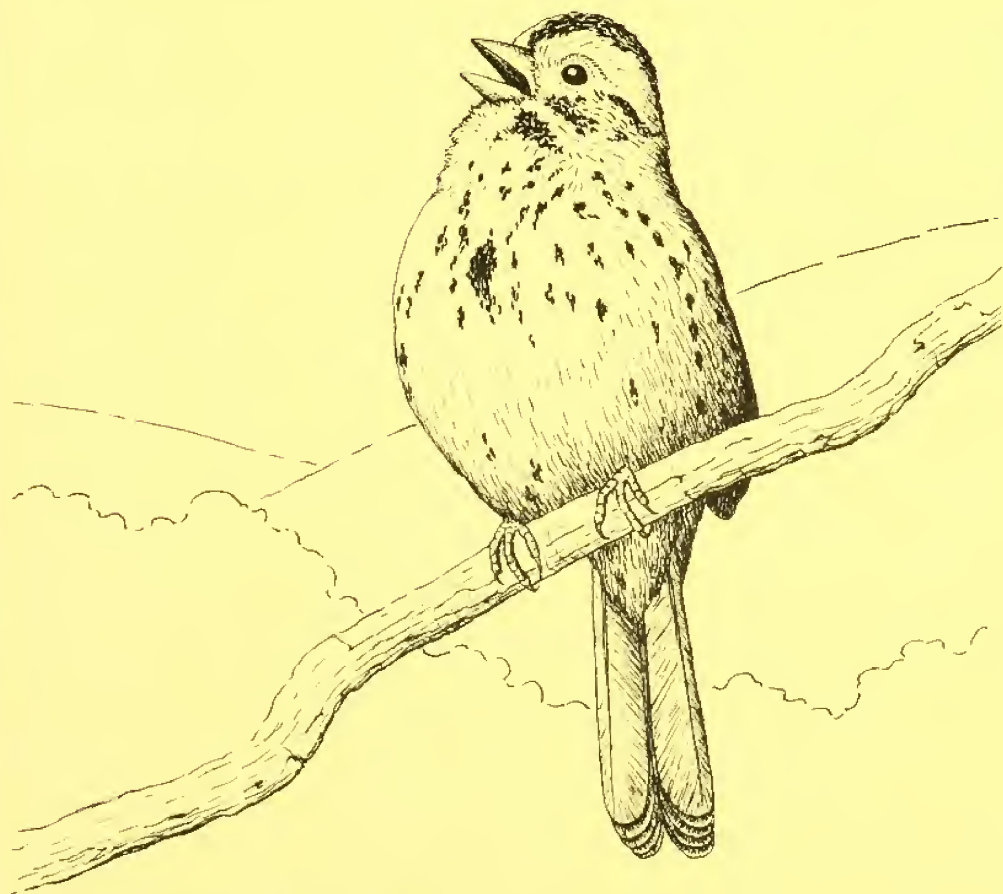


# IOWA BIRD LIFE



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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union was organized at Ames, Iowa, February 28, 1923, for the study and protection of native birds and to promote fraternal relations among Iowa bird students.

The central design of the Union's official seal is the American Goldfinch, designated State Bird of Iowa in 1933.

Publication of the Union: Mimeographed letters, 1923-1928; THE BULLETIN 1929-1930; IOWA BIRD LIFE beginning 1931.

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# Report of the I.O.U. Records Committee

THOMAS H. KENT, SECRETARY

211 Richards St.

IOWA CITY, IOWA

The Records Committee was created on June 16, 1980 by Carl Kurtz, President of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, to replace the Checklist Committee. Initial committee members were James Dinsmore, Thomas Kent (secretary), Darwin Koenig, Michael Newlon, Peter Petersen, Thomas Shires, and W. Ross Silcock. Joe Schaufenbuel replaced Shires in the fall of 1981.

This report will describe the purpose, structure, and procedures of the Committee. It will also present evaluations by the Committee of Iowa bird records received for 1980 and 1981.

The Committee has also reviewed many old records of casual and accidental species and selected nesting records. This review was undertaken to develop a new version of the Official List of Iowa Birds and to revise the Field Checklist of Iowa Birds. These will be published shortly. Results of the review will also be used in a forthcoming new book on Iowa birds.

Other activities were the publication of a list of species which should be documented (IBL 50:75) and approval of guidelines for reporting birds in Iowa with new forms for reporting field reports and documentation of unusual sightings (IBL 51:88-98).

## PURPOSE OF THE RECORDS COMMITTEE

1. To maintain an Official List of Iowa Birds to be published in **Iowa Bird Life** at least every ten years with updates on a yearly basis.
2. To publish a Field Checklist of Iowa Birds and update it as needed.
3. To evaluate reports of rare and unusual species submitted to the Committee. To accomplish this the Committee should make available to active birders a list of rare and unusual species to be reported to the Committee and provide guidelines and forms for reporting them. The Committee should maintain a file of records submitted including photographs and other evidence, record the action taken on each record, and share the results of the evaluations with the contributors. Results of the Committee's evaluations should be published at least yearly in **IBL**.
4. To advise the Field Reports and Christmas Bird Count Editors of **Iowa Bird Life** on policies for documenting, evaluating, and reporting rare and unusual bird sightings.
5. To undertake other activities which will improve the quality and quantity of our knowledge of Iowa's birds.

## COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

1. The Committee consists of seven members, one of whom is secretary.
2. Appointment of new members to the Committee is made by the President of the IOU from names submitted by the sitting members of the Committee. Names submitted to the President are determined by confidential ballot. The Secretary is elected by the members of the Committee and may serve for an indefinite time. Other members will ordinarily serve six year terms with eligibility for a second term. After serving two terms a member must retire from the Committee for at least one year before being reappointed. Unexpired terms of resigning members should be filled to complete the term on schedule. Terms of membership should ordinarily begin after the annual spring meeting of the IOU. The rationale for these procedures is to provide continuity and experience and at the same time provide for regular turnover of membership.
3. Qualifications for appointment to the Committee include expertise in the identification of birds that have been seen or may be seen in Iowa, knowledge of



Iowa records, and familiarity with birders and birding localities in Iowa. Nominees should also be members of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union and active field observers.

4. A member may be removed from the Committee by the President on advice of the Executive Council for failure to perform his-her duties or for other cause.

#### COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

1. The Secretary shall call meetings, chair meetings, initiate correspondence, maintain records, report results, and assign tasks to other members as determined by the Committee.

2. Members shall determine the policies of the Committee, vote on records submitted for evaluation, attend at least one meeting a year, and carry out special projects as determined by the Committee.

3. Committee procedures shall be determined by majority vote (four votes). Five members constitute a quorum.

4. Procedures for voting on records are outlined below.

#### PROCEDURES FOR EVALUATING RECORDS

1. The classification of records shall be based on the following scheme with I-S the highest and VI the lowest Class.

Class I-S — An existing identifiable specimen adequately labeled as to date, place, and collector.

Class I-P — A diagnostic photograph adequately labeled as to date, place, and photographer.

Class I-R — A diagnostic recording or sonogram adequately labeled as to date, place, and recorder.

Note: A specimen, photograph, or recording which is not diagnostic or adequately labeled should be used as supporting evidence for a lower classification.

Class II — An acceptable sight record documented independently by three or more observers.

Class III — An acceptable sight record documented by one or two observers.

Class IV — A probably correct record but not beyond reasonable doubt.

Class V — A possibly accurate record, but one for which there is insufficient evidence to make a judgment.

Class VI — A record that likely represents an incorrect identification, a very improbable occurrence, an escaped bird, or a record (acceptable or not) of an introduced species not yet considered established in Iowa.

2. All members shall vote on records of unusual birds submitted to the Committee except as noted under 4. The initial evaluation, usually made through a circulation of records by mail, shall be made without discussion with another member of the Committee but other persons may be consulted. Classification should be made on individual judgment, but may be based on guidelines set up by the Committee. An "accepted" vote of Class I, II, or III should mean that the record is considered beyond reasonable doubt.

3. If on the initial evaluation all seven members classify the record as Class III or higher, the record is accepted. The Class of the record will be the highest level for which there are six votes. For example, a vote for 3 for Class I, 2 for Class II, and 2 for Class III is accepted as a Class III record. An initial vote of 6-0, where one member fails to vote, shall also be considered accepted. Further, an initial vote of 6-1 will be considered accepted if the negative voter fails to provide comments that might cause other members to change their vote. Initial votes of 4-3 and 5-2, or 6-1 votes with comments, will cause the record to be reevaluated by the Committee, usually at a meeting, with full discussion and revote. A final vote of 7-0, 6-0, or 6-1 is required for acceptance of a record. Records with three or fewer accepted votes on the initial evaluation are not reviewed and not accepted.

4. Members are required to vote on all records, except those for which they were involved in the initial identification of the bird. In this case they are required to abstain, unless they consider the reported identification to be incorrect or the documentation insufficient. For the purposes of evaluating records as described under 3., abstentions are counted as votes for the highest Class voted for by the remainder of the Committee. If a member fails to vote on a record within three months or is temporarily excused because of other commitments, the Secretary shall ask another experienced member of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union to serve as an alternate.

#### 1980 AND 1981 RECORDS REVIEWED

Records of accidental species, some casual species, and a few regular species that were out of season were circulated to the Committee for evaluation. These included 25 records from 1980 (16 accepted) and 27 from 1981 (19 accepted). Other records of rare species were either accepted by the Field Reports and-or Christmas Bird Count editors of IBL and published in IBL or were not reviewed by the Committee and not published because of lack of documentation. The Committee feels that rare sightings without evidence for current and future review are best left unpublished even though they may be correct. We hope this policy will promote accurate and detailed reporting of unusual sightings.

The accepted records are listed below with page reference(s) to IBL. Only a few need further comment. Unaccepted records are listed along with the vote (Class I, II, or III-Class IV, V, VI-abstentions) and reasons for non-acceptance. The Committee welcomes comments and will reconsider a record if new evidence becomes available.

#### 1980 — Accepted

1. Brant, 2 Nov 1980, DeSoto NWR, Class I-S, published photo of specimen (IBL 51:26, 125-126)
2. Ross' Goose, 19 Mar. 1980, Forney L., Class III (IBL 50:45)
3. Ross' Goose, 21 Mar. 1980, Willow S., Class III (IBL 50:45)
4. Black Scoter, 21 Nov. 1980, Volga L., Class III (IBL 51:26)
5. Sandhill Crane, 11-19 Apr. 1980, Boone, Class III (IBL 50:46-47)
6. Yellow Rail, 28 Apr. 1980, Johnson Co., Class III (IBL 50:47)
7. Yellow Rail, 11 May 1980, Sweet M., Class III (IBL 50:47)
8. Yellow Rail, 18 May 1980, Sweet M., Class III (IBL 50:47)
9. Curve-billed Thrasher, 18 Nov. 1980, Solon, Class I-P, published photo (IBL 51:21-24, 28, 33)
10. Varied Thrush, 9, 10 Feb. 1980, Monticello, Class I-P, published photo (IBL 50:27)
11. MountainBluebird, 16 May 1980, Mason City, Class I-P, photo on file (IBL 50:49)
12. Yellow-throated Warbler, 3 May 1980, Wildcat Den SP, Class III (IBL 50:50)
13. Yellow-throated Warbler, 9 May 1980, Wildcat Den SP, Class III (IBL 50:50)
14. Western Tanager, 26 Apr. 1980, Forney L., Class III (IBL 50:51, 53)
15. Hoary Redpoll, 27, 29 Dec. 1980, Waterloo, Class II (IBL 51:33)
16. Lark Bunting, 29 Jul. 1980, Fremont Co., Class III (IBL 50:78)

#### 1980 — Not Accepted

1. Tufted Duck, vote 0-7, inadequate description of extremely unlikely species.
2. Tufted Duck, vote 0-7, excellent photograph of bird in eclipse plumage, probably a male Lesser Scaup.
3. Mississippi Kite (IBL 50:46), vote 3-4, description of two birds fits this species. This species has been seen in adjacent states in recent years, but is still classified as extirpated (not seen in 50 years) in Iowa. Reservations included possible influence of books in preparing documentation, lack of confirmation by



other observers, and a report by the same observers of this species on 12 Apr. the previous year, a very early date.

4. Ferruginous Hawk (IBL 51:32), vote 2-5. A description of an immature bird was thought to be probably correct, but very short observation time and difficulties in identifying buteos were reasons given for not considering the sighting beyond doubt.

5. Prairie Falcon (IBL 50:46), vote 2-5, considered probable but black axillaries not seen and observer expressed doubt.

6. Greater Black-backed Gull, vote 0-7, probably an immature Herring Gull.

7. Black-legged Kittiwake, vote 1-6, observed without binoculars, description does not exclude more likely Bonaparte's Gull.

8. Roseate Tern, vote 2-3-2, a very difficult identification of a very unlikely species seen at a great distance.

9. Ringed Turtle Dove (IBL 51:4), acceptable identification of a species not accepted as established in Iowa, possible escapee.

#### 1981 — Accepted

1. Arctic Loon, 28 Apr. 1981, Amana L., Class II (IBL 51:63, 76)
2. White-faced Ibis, 13 May 1981, L. Manawa, Class I-P, published photo (IBL 51:64, 74)
3. White-faced Ibis, 19 May 1981, Willow S., Class III (IBL 51:64)
4. *Plegadis* sp., 1 May 1981, Otter Creek M., Class III (IBL 51:64)
5. *Plegadis* sp., 2 Sept. 1981, Scott Co., Class III (IBL 51:115). This was probably a Glossy Ibis based on the blue facial skin, but light edging to this skin and eye color were not noted. A photograph or specimen would be highly desirable for Iowa's first definite record of this difficult-to-identify species.
6. White-faced Ibis, 11 Sep. 1981, Runnells Game Area, Class III (IBL 51:115). Identification based on red eye color.
7. Mute Swan, 11-25 Sep. 1981, Marshall Co., Class III (IBL 51:115)
8. Prairie Falcon, 19 Dec. 1981, Sioux City, Class III (IBL 52:7)
9. Prairie Falcon, 20 Dec. 1981, DeSoto NWR, Class III (IBL 52:7)
10. Black Rail, 29 Aug. 1981, Cone M., Class III (IBL 51:95, 117)
11. Thayer's Gull, 19, 24, 28 Mar. 1981, L. Manawa, Class I-P, published photos (IBL 51:67, 72-74)
12. Black-legged Kittiwake, 6, 7 Dec. 1981, Dubuque, Class II (IBL 52:27, 33)
13. Black-legged Kittiwake, 12 Dec. 1981, Saylorsville Res., Class III (IBL 52:27, 32-33)
14. Hawk Owl, 25, 26 Dec. 1981, Waterloo, Class I-P, published photos (IBL 52:27, 31-32)
15. Curve-billed Thrasher, 28 Jan. 1981, Rathbun L., Class I-P, photo on file (IBL 51:21-24, 33, 35)
16. Prairie Warbler, 20 May 1981, Grammer Grove Wildlife Area, Class III (IBL 51:69)
17. Western Tanager, 8 Oct. 1981, Waterloo, Class III (IBL 51:122). A fall tanager with wing bars was a difficult identification because a small percentage of fall Scarlet Tanagers have wing bars. The three zoned color of head, back, and rump alluded to by one observer and character of the wing bars seen by the other observer were convincing to the Committee inspite of the fact that color of the underwing coverts were not seen and doubts were expressed by the Regional Editor of *American Birds*.
18. Black-headed Grosbeak, 13 Dec. 1981, LeClaire, Class I-P, see photo (IBL 52:28)



Black-headed Grosbeak

LeClaire, Ia., 13 Dec. 1981. Photo by Don Moeller

19. Smith's Longspur, 11 Apr. 1981, Johnson Co., Class III (IBL 51:53-55, 71)

**1981 — Not Accepted**

1. Barrow's Goldeneye (IBL 52:7), vote 3-4, a female with all yellow bill was judged probable for this species. Authorities differ as to whether the all yellow bill is definitive for Barrow's Goldeneye. There is no acceptable record of this species in Iowa, but it is seen somewhere in the Midwest nearly every year.

2. Thayer's Gull, vote 2-4-1, photos on file, identification questioned by Regional Editor of *American Birds* on basis of darkness of wing tips.

3. Thayer's Gull, vote 2-5, possibly the same bird as 1.

4. Thayer's Gull, vote 1-5-1, not seen in flight.

5. Thayer's Gull, vote 2-4-1, photos not considered diagnostic.

6. Thayer's Gull, vote 3-3-1, considered probable, but other sightings raise doubts about sight records of this species. Further evaluation of these Thayer's Gull records was recommended.

7. Black-and-white Warbler (IBL 51:33), vote 1-6, winter record, description not sufficient for identification.

8. Sharp-tailed Sparrow (IBL 51:70), vote 3-4, description written 10 days after sighting and somewhat incomplete.

## Raptor Banding and Migration in the Loess Bluffs of Southwest Iowa

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### INTRODUCTION

During fall, 1981, a raptor banding station was placed in the loess hills of Freemont County near Sidney, Iowa. The effort was aimed at banding as many migrant diurnal birds of prey as possible and at determining whether this unique physiographic area is an important route utilized by these birds during fall migration.



A major raptor migration route has not been found in Iowa (Dean Roosa, personal communication). Observations by Dean Roosa and others indicate that a large number of hawks follow the west side of the Mississippi River through Minnesota during fall migration. However, for reasons unknown, most cross the river near Reno, Minnesota, follow the east side south through Illinois, and in doing so bypass Iowa completely.

Elsewhere in the Midwest, major raptor migration routes have been located and banding stations established. These include Hawk Ridge in Duluth, Minnesota, and the Cedar Grove Station at Cedar Grove, Wisconsin. Migration of birds in these areas is influenced to a great extent by Lakes Superior (Duluth) and Michigan (Cedar Grove).

In the East, concentrations of hawks follow the Atlantic coast and the Appalachian Mountains during fall migration. Heintzelman (1976) writes that strong updrafts conducive to hawk flights are created along the Appalachian range as northwest winds, brought on with the passage of cold fronts, are deflected upward.

The loess hills, which form dunes over one-hundred feet high (Leach, 1979), might provide soaring conditions similar to those created by a mountain range and therefore be the source of a significant hawk migration. It was with this thought in mind that the banding station was established.

#### METHODS

The station was located on the land of Phillip Hall in Freemont County, Sidney Township, four miles west and four miles north of Sidney, Iowa. This location, chosen because of its unobstructed view to the north, allowed the observers a good view of raptor activity and the raptors a good view of the lure bird used in banding.



Figure 1. View to the north from the Freemont County raptor banding station. Station volunteers, Jeff Koster (left) and Kirk Marcum (right), stand in front of the blind. Photo taken February, 1982.

A primary component of the station was the blind, built on top of one of the bluffs. (Figure 1). Four steel posts were driven in the ground in the shape of a rectangle measuring 1.8m x 1.2m x 1.5m, and woven wire was secured to the sides and top. Juniper (*Juniperus virginiana*) branches were laced through the mesh, and the inside of the blind was lined with burlap and canvas to improve concealment.



The blind was manned for a total of 42 field hours on ten separate dates beginning September 23, and ending November 21, 1981. Of the total time spent in the field, 32.5 hours were spent luring raptors for capture from inside the blind, with the remainder spent observing the skies for hawk activity. Raptor movements were noted from within the blind, but here visibility was somewhat restricted.

Raptors are trapped using a lure pigeon as bait. A live pigeon is placed in a vinyl harness and attached to a line which runs from the blind, to the area of the bow net, up a 2m pole, and back to the blind to make a complete loop. When the line is pulled the pigeon flutters and gives the appearance of a bird in distress. This draws the predatory birds which are then caught with either bow or dho-gazza nets.

The bow net is comprised of two solid steel rods, one with a diameter of 6.3mm and the other 9.4mm, formed into half-circles and linked by hinges to form a complete circle. A mesh net covers this circle. The trap is spring loaded and, due to the hinges, springs, and a special trigger mechanism, may be folded into a half-circle and locked under tension in this position. The trigger is pulled when the raptor seizes the pigeon at the net. Pulling the trigger releases the top half-circle, which flips over and entraps both the raptor and the pigeon. (Figure 2)



Figure 2. Appearance of bow net in released position. The diameter of the net is 1.6m at its widest point.

The dho-gazza net, used on occasion in conjunction with the bow net, is a fine mesh net suspended approximately 2m high between two poles. Dho-gazza nets are erected at right angles to each other around the lure bird and bow net. Whenever a raptor sights the pigeon and attempts a kill, it may inadvertently strike a dho-gazza net which drops around the bird and entangles it.

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of five species of diurnal raptors were observed from the banding station during the fall of 1981. (Table 1) Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*), included in the raptor category but excluded from the data of this study, were observed only until the October 7 banding date. These birds were absent on subsequent visits because of migration from the area. Nonraptorial species of special interest sighted during the fall were a flock of fifteen Wild Turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*), and a flock of eight Red Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra*), both sighted on October 24.

TABLE 1. Diurnal raptors observed and banded from a banding station in the loess bluffs in southwest Iowa during fall, 1981.

Observations		Species	Species
Date	Per Hour	Observed	Banded
9-23-81	1.1	Red-tailed Hawk (3A;1?)	Red-tailed Hawk (1A)
9-30-81	1.5	Red-tailed Hawk (2A;4I)	Red-tailed Hawk (2I)
10- 7-81	2.7	Red-tailed Hawk (4A;4?)	
		Buteo sp. (1)	
		American Kestrel (1?)	
10-14-81	1.3	Red-tailed Hawk (1I;2?)	
		Cooper's Hawk (1?)	
		Sharp-shinned Hawk (1?)	
10-21-81	2.8	Red-tailed Hawk (2A;6?)	
		Buteo sp. (2)	
		Sharp-shinned Hawk (1?)	
10-24-81	1.5	Red-tailed Hawk (3A;2I)	Sharp-shinned Hawk (1A)
		Buteo sp. (3)	
		Sharp-shinned Hawk (1?)	
		Raptor sp. (1)	
10-25-81	2.9	Red-tailed Hawk (4A;1I;6?)	
		Cooper's Hawk (5?)	
		Sharp-shinned Hawk (2?)	
		Accipiter sp. (2)	
11- 4-81	.2	Red-tailed Hawk (1?)	
11-11-81	.4	Rough-legged Hawk (1?)	
11-21-81	.3	Red-tailed Hawk (1?)	

1 includes all diurnal raptors except Turkey Vultures

2 A—adult, I—immature, ?—age unknown

Table 1 shows the number of birds of prey observed from the banding station per hour. The range is from 2.9 sighted per hour on October 25, 1981, to less than one observation per hour on all three dates in November. The mean number of hourly sightings for all ten dates is 1.5.

A total of four raptors, three Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) and one Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) were captured and banded at the station during the fall. (Table 1). This effort involved a total of 32.5 trapping hours, for an average 8.1 hours of trapping time invested in the capture of each bird.

Data in Table 1 suggest that the loess bluffs, at least in southwest Iowa, is not a major raptor flyway such as Hawk Ridge at Duluth, Minnesota. For comparison, during the fall 1981 migration at Hawk Ridge, 16 nocturnal and diurnal species of raptors were banded, diurnal birds of prey were counted at the banding station and overlook at the mean rate of 41.4 per hour, and the mean number of diurnal raptors banded daily was 16.1 (Dave Evans, personal communication). Similar statistics are collected each year at the ridge.

Although the bluffs are probably not a major corridor for diurnal raptor flights in the fall, the data does indicate that there is some movement of raptors along this route. Of the dates at the banding station, those in October clearly show the greatest movement. (Table 1) Almost three birds were seen per hour from the banding station during three of five October visits. This figure would likely be higher if more time had been spent observing the skies from outside the blind, where the view to the north was unobstructed.

Very few raptors were observed from the bluffs in November, but it is quite possible that increased numbers moved through the area after the last visit to the



area on November 21. The fall weather up to that point was relatively mild and perhaps a surge of movement from the north occurred with the onset of the severe winter weather of 1981-1982.

Some raptor banding has been conducted elsewhere in the bluffs. State ecologist Dean Roosa was able to band nine raptors in the bluffs near Turin, Iowa, on October 21 and 22, 1980. (Dean Roosa, personal communication) This higher capture rate may indicate that raptors do move along the bluffs in greater numbers than was found near Sidney in 1981.

Don Priebe, who has been a game warden for fourteen years in the loess bluffs of southwest Iowa, felt that the fall, 1981 raptor migration along the bluffs was the lightest he had ever observed. More research is planned for subsequent fall migrations to gain additional insight into raptor flights along this route.

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Leach, Rebecca. 1979. Loess Hills in Danger. *Iowa Conservationist*. 38:2+12

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dean Roosa and the Iowa State Preserves Advisory Board funded travel expenses. Dean Roosa, Ross Silcock, and Sue Varland offered helpful suggestions with the manuscript. The following individuals, mostly students at Iowa Western Community College, helped at the blind: Randy Cooney, Jon Groves, Deb Henning, Jeff Koster, Kirk Marcum, Jim Montgomery, Scott Gold and Don McIntire.

## I.O.U. Spring Meeting, 1982

MARY LOU PETERSEN, SECY.

The sixtieth annual convention of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union convened in Ames, Iowa on May 8 and 9, 1982. The host organization was the Ames Audubon Society. The meeting was held in facilities of Iowa State University. The meeting marked the fourth time that the Iowa Ornithologists' Union held a joint meeting with the Iowa Chapter of The Nature Conservancy.

The Saturday events featured a mid-morning field trip following registration. The Nature Conservancy business meeting was convened at the same time as the field trip.

The afternoon session included the following presentations: Pete Van Der Linden spoke on "The Iowa Arboretum," which is north of Madrid, Dr. Alex Thierman presented his "Bird Photography," this was followed by "For Those Who Follow" presented by Frank Nosawell of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, and rounding off the session was "Natural History of Peru" by Peter Petersen.

The IOU business meeting was called to order by President Ross Silcock. Francis Moore moved that the minutes be dispensed with as they were printed in IBL. The motion passed. The president then called on Hank Zaletel for the treasurer's report. See page 50-51. Hank reported that the report had been audited by John C. Robinson who found the report to be correct and in good order. Hank also mentioned the need to raise dues. Carol Newlon moved that the treasurer's report be accepted and the motion passed.

Under old business, Carl Bendorf presented a report on the bird line and passed out a questionnaire for those who had used the bird line. He said there had been about 50-60 calls per week. The number of those leaving messages was smaller. Carl gathers messages for Rick Hollis to write up a script. When calling in, be sure to leave your message including your name, address, and phone number. The tape

will continue to record as long as you are talking. He also mentioned it is important to have follow-up calls. You should call in to report that the bird is still there or was not found.

Under new business, the president brought the dues raise recommendation from the executive council to the group. A discussion followed. Carl Bendorf moved that the following dues structure be accepted: Life member, \$250; Supporting member, \$15.00, Family member, \$15.00, Contributing member, \$20.00, and Regular member, \$12.00, and Junior member, \$6.00. The motion passed.

The checklist committee solicited opinions from the membership about the format for the new checklist, as to whether it should be an 8 x 11" sheet or a field card 3½ x 6". The card had overwhelming support.

It was brought to the group's attention that the ISU Library is willing to act as a depository for the IOU. IOU material would be housed as a special collection and members would have access to this information. It would include old IOU minutes and historical documents. It would also house field notes and records of members so they would not be destroyed. A member's book collection could also be given to this collection. It was the consensus of the group that this would be a valuable service for the IOU.

President Silcock announced that Peter Petersen and Tom Kent would serve on the nominations committee and that Lucille Liljedahl and Hank Zaletel would serve on the resolutions committee. He also named Dr. Jim Sandrock, Carl Bendorf, Bob Howe and Barbara Wilson to serve on a committee to review how the IOU functions and recommend possible improvements. If anyone is interested in this committee they should contact Ross Silcock. Carl Bendorf is in charge of membership for the IOU.

The group then engaged in an extended discussion of IOU finances and membership needs. In the past IOU has attracted good numbers of new members in a year, but only a small percentage of these new members remain members and very few become active in the organization. It was felt by some that the purpose of the organization has not been clear to new members and probably forgotten by the old members, particularly the teaching aspect of the organization. It is obvious that things need improvement and we need to hold members that are attracted to the group. The membership we have with the dues increase will just about be able to pay for printing and sending out the *IBL*. The editor can reduce the size of the next two issues thereby reducing the cost. The cost of *IBL* is a front end load with most of the cost in setting up the magazine. Increased membership would not cause a great increase in price for *IBL* issues printed. The magazine costs the organization less per issue when the number goes up. The business meeting was adjourned.

Following the banquet which was held in Scheman Continuing Education Building on campus, President Silcock cautioned Sunday morning field trip leaders to take more time to be sure people know what birds they are looking at and to make the trips learning experiences. Dick Nuss of the Ames Audubon Society summarized the field trip habitats and possible birds. Dr. Erwin Klass of Iowa State University presented the banquet program. "The Snow Goose and Other Birds of Churchill, Manitoba." The program showed the audience that Churchill is probably the best place to see arctic wildlife.

The group gathered at Inis Grove park for a box lunch and conclusion of the business meeting following the 5:30 a.m. field trips. Tom Kent presented the nominations committee report. President Silcock called for further nominations. Tom Kent moved nominations be closed and that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for the slate of officers. The motion passed. The officers are: president, Ross



Silcock; vice president, Mike Newlon; secretary, Mary Lou Petersen; treasurer, Hank Zaletel; executive council, Ray Cummins, Darwin Koenig, Carl Kurtz and Bob Myers.

The resolutions committee report was given by Lucille Lijedahl. Be it resolved by the 60th Annual IOU and the 4th joint IOU and TNC meeting of May 8th and 9th, 1982, that we the members thank the Ames Audubon Society for hosting the spring meeting.

Be it further resolved that our thanks be given to:

1. The officers and executive council, our editor and librarian for their efforts on behalf of our organization.

2. To Iowa State University for the use of their facilities.

3. To Dick Nuss, president of the Ames Audubon Society and Judy Van Der Linden and Laura Marek for coffee and doughnuts at registration, and the breaks.

4. To Hank Zaletel for arranging for the many and varied programs.

5. To Peter Van Der Linden, Dr. Alex Thierman, Frank Nosawell, and Peter Petersen for the enjoyable afternoon programs.

6. To Dr. Erwin Klass for the fine banquet program.

7. To the Sunday field trip leaders: Hank Zaletel, John Robinson, Joe Schaufenbuel, Dick Nuss and Pete and Judy Van Der Linden. Carol Newlon moved to accept the committee report. The motion carried.

Peter Petersen led the compilation, 143 species were seen on Sunday. President Silcock announced the spring meeting would be in Shenandoah and that the fall meeting would be in November in northeast Iowa headed by Joe Schaufenbuel. Tom Kent moved the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried.

#### Birds observed

Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Great Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, American Wigeon, Gadwall, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Peregrine Falcon (PM), American Kestrel, Common Bobwhite, Ring-necked Pheasant, Sora, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Lesser Golden Plover, Upland Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Common Snipe, Short-billed Dowitcher, White-rumped Sandpiper (RS), Pectoral Sandpiper, Ring-billed Gull, Forster's Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Black-billed Cuckoo, Common Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Marsh Wren, Sedge Wren, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, American Robin, Wood Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Veery, Eastern Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, European Starling, Yellow-throated Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Palm Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark,

Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Northern Oriole, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, LeConte's Sparrow (RB), Vesper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow and Song Sparrow. Eleven (11) species were seen on Saturday and not on Sunday. They were: American White Pelican, Little Blue Heron, Green-winged Teal, Gray Partridge, Long-billed Dowitcher, Eastern Pewee, Cedar Waxwing, Golden-winged Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Lark Sparrow, and Clay-colored Sparrow.

# I.O.U. FINANCIAL STATEMENT May 8, 1982

Balance on hand May 29, 1981 ..... \$1,910.69

## RECEIPTS:

Memberships .....	\$3,485.00	
"Birding Areas of Iowa" book .....	154.32	
Checklists .....	22.14	
Decals .....	1.40	
Brassards .....	6.00	
Issues of Iowa Bird Life .....	46.80	
Annotated Lists .....	68.47	
Balance from Spring I.O.U. Meeting .....	280.09	
Balance from Fall I.O.U. Meeting .....	117.70	
Transfer from Savings Account to Pay for		
June 1981 issue .....	225.00	4,406.92
Total receipts and Balance Forward .....		6,317.61

## DISBURSEMENTS:

### Iowa Bird Life:

Printing — Monticello Express .....	\$4,452.75	
Editor's Fee .....	125.00	
Editor's Telephone .....	20.00	
Envelopes .....	154.48	4,752.23

### Postage:

Second Class Permit for I.B.L. ....	101.35	
Editor's Expense .....	31.75	
Treasurer Expense .....	20.00	153.10

### Printing:

Fall Meeting .....	10.05	
Spring Meeting .....	28.61	
I.O.U. Brochure .....	16.43	
Letterhead .....	28.60	
Rubberstamp .....	7.21	90.90

### Misc. Expenses:

Checking Service Charge .....	10.00	
Membership refund .....	2.00	12.00

Total Expenses .....		5,008.23
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Balance at Midland Financial, Checking Account .....		1,309.38
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### Deposits — Midland Financial — Re-

purchase Agreement at 11 percent ..	\$4,538.75	
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Scholarship Fund .....	798.40	
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H. Brown .....	798.40	
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(Interest included in above earned during the year \$411.41)



# SPRING MEETING

51

## RECEIPTS:

Donations to Iowa Birdline .....	\$ 951.00	
Interest .....	12.26	963.26

## DISBURSEMENTS:

Set Up Charge .....	\$ 75.00	
Tapes .....	21.63	
Monthly Charge .....	74.90	171.53
Balance .....		791.73

Attendance Spring IOU Meeting Ames, Iowa May 8-9, 1982

Ames — Delmar Cassidy, Jim Dinsmore, Jack Dodd, A. J. Englehorn, Eric Gerrish, Robert Gerrish, Duane Isely, Erv Klaas, Laura Marek, Paul Mart-sching, Lotus Miller, Ron Nelson, Dave Newhouse, Dick Nuss, Bill Robbins, John Robinson, Joe Schaufenbuel, Judy Shearer, Alex Thierman, Peter Van der Linden, Judy Van der Linden.

Boone — Bruce Ehresman, Marlene Ehresman.

Booneville — Bloise Armstrong, Eugene Armstrong.

Cedar Rapids — Floy Erickson, Norman Erickson, Karl Goellner, Ruth Goellner, Roberta Oppedahl.

Clear Lake — Dee Hayward.

Colo — Hank Zaletel, Linda Zaletel.

Davenport — Mary Lou Petersen, Peter Petersen.

Decorah — Alan Branhagen.

Des Moines — Dwight Brooke, Margaret Brooke, Ruth Buckles, Fred Crane, Esther Dungan, John Hoogerheide, Margaret Hoogerheide, Bob Howe, Barbara Miller, Dick Mooney, Pauly Mooney, Robert Mote, Leroy Pratt, Louise Pratt, Mark Rouw, Sylvan Runkel.

Eldora — Garnita Sward, Nancy Slife.

Fort Dodge — Mary Sand.

Iowa City — Carl Bendorf, Margrieta Delle, Tom Kent, Bernie Knight, Carol Newlon, Michael Newlon, Jim Sandrock.

Jamaica — Gene Burns, Marilyn Burns.

Lake Mills — Sibyl Sand.

Liscomb — Beth Proescholdt, Mark Proescholdt.

Malvern — Ross Silcock.

Marion — Lucile Liljedahl.

Marshalltown — George Crowther, Vera Crowther, Jean Eige, Norman Eige, Marlys Huff, Blanche Neff, Betty Savage, Ed Savage, Grace Wegnall, Jim Wegnall, Lois Wilson.

Mason City — Beth McBride.

Montezuma — Darwin Koenig.

Norwalk — Ann Johnson.

Pleasantville — Robert Thornberg.

Pocahontas — Ray Cummins.

Rockwell — Edna Peters.

St. Anthony — Carl Kurtz.

State Center — Dorothy Maish, Jim Maish.

Storm Lake — Edwin Crocker, Virginia Crocker.

Union — Ramona Sommerlot.

Waterloo — Naomi Bandfield, Antoinette Camarata, Anna Kirchgatter, H. A. Kirchgatter, Francis Moore, Bob Myers, John Osness, Lois Osness.

Bellevue, Neb. — Barbara Padelford, Loren Padelford.

Omaha, Neb. — Tanya Bray.

## Field Reports

SPRING 1982

Thomas H. Kent, Field Reports Editor  
211 Richards Street  
Iowa City, Ia. 52240

### WEATHER AND HABITAT CONDITIONS

(by James P. Sandrock)

The first quarter of this calendar year provided a strong contrast to warm, dry 1981. January-April 1982 averaged more than 9 degrees colder with over three times as much snow and nearly three times as much water equivalent as the similar period in the previous year. The month of May continued the wet trend. Rain began to fall over most of Iowa on 4 May and occurred almost daily until the end of the month.

The weather for the reporting period 1 March-31 May can be best summarized with simple adjectives: cold, wet, miserable. March was cloudy, wet, and windy and produced moderate to heavy snowfalls across the southern two-thirds of the state, while snowfall amounts were light in most northwest and north central counties. There was a cold, snowy pattern from 2-10 March, but the latter three weeks produced temperatures above normal on most days. Almost all the precipitation during this time was in the form of rain. Early snow melt and heavy rains at mid-month caused occasional minor flooding on some Iowa streams. Mt. Ayr and Clarinda had 3.48 inches rain and 2.90 inches rain respectively on 19 March. Temperatures covered a wide range: -13 degrees at Cascade and Anamosa and -11 degrees at Atlantic on 6 March, while on 30 March, warm, dry southwest winds, gusting in excess of 50 mph. drove temperatures up to 70 degrees at Keokuk and 68 degrees at Waterloo.

The month of April, in which the state averaged almost eight inches, was the second snowiest April in a 92-year-long record. Despite April's very warm start (85 degrees at Missouri Valley, 84 degrees at Red Oak), the month averaged 4 degrees colder than normal. The bitter cold accompanied by blizzards, snowstorms, and snowcover took place 3-11 April. Record low temperatures were reported on 6 April at Des Moines (10 degrees), Sioux City (12 degrees), and Waterloo (-4 degrees) and at Clinton on 7 April (7 degrees). Substantial snowfalls on 5-6 and 7-8 April increased the month's snowfall to record amounts in parts of Iowa, including Des Moines with 15.6 inches. Substantial rains fell 15-16 April with amounts to 3-4 inches in southwest Iowa. Little rain fell during the last two weeks of April and temperatures slowly moderated.

The month of May, however, received the rain normally experienced for April. By 19 May, the average rainfall of 4.23 inches had been attained, and the final days of the month brought the total precipitation well above average, making this month perhaps the wettest May since 1959. Rain in Woodbury County ranged from 3.5 inches to 9 inches during one week in mid-May, while at Hamburg in Freemont County the Nishnabotna River was reported five feet above flood stage on 21 May because of the heavy rains. Only east central and southeast Iowa remained relatively dry.

The irregular weather patterns during the reporting period had a tremendous effect on migrating birds. Ponds and marshes were covered with ice until late March which hindered the observation of resting, feeding waterfowl. The cold weather and the rains in the usual warbler migration "window" seemed to confuse the birds as much as the birders. High water caused by rains covered many mud flats and sandy beaches earlier than usual, thus reducing the time available for



observing shorebirds.

More observers are commenting on weather and habitat. We continue to rely on your observations for accurate pictures of these phenomena. Reports were generalized and incorporated in the above. Special thanks are due Douglas Harr, Beth Proescholdt, and Barbara L. Wilson for their reports on both weather patterns and specific details. All observers are encouraged to continue to include comments on weather and habitat conditions.

#### GENERAL TRENDS

March birding was not out of the ordinary, but April produced some unusual trends, including early snows that concentrated regular migrants and aided in finding longspurs. There were record early dates for six species of warblers, most after the rain of 15-16 Apr., but La. waterthrush was found on 2 Apr. The warbler migration was prolonged to the end of May with few indications of waves except for 5-6 May. Shorebirding was generally poorer than usual because of high water levels, especially in May. Record numbers of Lesser Yellowlegs were seen following the mid-April warming trend.

#### UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Accidental species included White-faced Ibis, Black Rail, Burrowing Owl, Hoary Redpoll, Smith's Longspur, and Chestnut-collard Longspur. All except the latter are pushing for casual or possibly regular status. Casual species included Snowy Egret, Ross' Goose, Sandhill Crane, King Rail, Yellow Rail, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Bohemian Waxwing, Prairie Warbler, Lark Bunting, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

#### LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

**Common Loon:** Early dates were 7 Apr. at L. Manawa (BJR fide TB) and 9 Apr. at Red Rock L. (RT). Late dates were 13 May at Pleasant Creek Res. (PW), 12 May at L. Pahoja, Lyon Co., and 11 May in Pocahontas and Buena Vista Cos. (TK,WRS,TStau).

**Horned Grebe:** There were seven reports from 20 Mar. at Lock 9 (JSb) to 12 May at L. Pahoja, Lyon Co. (TK,WRS,TStau).

**Eared Grebe:** Eastern Iowa reports were from L. Macbride on 17 Apr. (CJB,MN) and Muskrat S. on 10 May (TK et al). Early date was 13 Apr. at Cherokee (MBre) and Saylorville Res. (JSb) and late date 31 May at Willow S. (BLW).

**Western Grebe:** 2 at Rush L., Osceola Co. on 30 Apr. (DBi); 1 at Amana L. on 8 May (LH fide CJB); and 2 dark phase at Akron, Plymouth Co. on 12 May (TK,WRS,TStau).

**American White Pelican:** 4 were at Amana L. on 30 Mar. (CJB) for the third earliest date on record. Peak count was 180 at Saylorville Res. on 13 Apr. (JSb). Late dates were 65 at Willow S. on 26 May (BLW) and 15 at Sioux Center on 22 May (JV).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** There were two record early dates: 6 at Cone M. on 21 Mar. (TStau) and 1 at L. Manawa on 24 Mar. (BJR fide TB); 4 at Lock 13 on 27 Mar. (PP) were also early. Peak counts were 600 in Fremont Co. on 24 Apr. (WRS,RKM,FM), 350 at Saylorville Res. on 13 Apr. (JSb), and 101 at Red Rock L. on 13 Apr. (RT). Several were present at Hendrickson M. (BPr,MP) and DeSoto NWR (JR) on 31 May.

**Green Heron:** 1 was in NE Mills Co. on 17 Apr. (BLW).

**Little Blue Heron:** 1 at L. Manawa on 11 Apr. (PS fide TB) ties the third earliest date. Others were 30 Apr. in Louisa Co. (imm, +TStau,JH), 1 May at Amana L. (adult, photos, TK,CJB,TStau,JH), 8 May at Ames (adult, +JR,RKM,FM), 9 May at Amana L. (LH fide CJB), 19 May at Willow S. (BLW).

- Cattle Egret:** 1 Story Co. 23, 30 Apr. (JR), 2 Waterloo 7 May (RKM), 1 South Twin L., Calhoun Co., 11 May (TK,WRS,TStau), 1 Fremont Co., 13 May (RP), 1 Dewey's Pasture, 16 May (JR fide JD), 5 Warren Co., 20-27 May (RT), 4 New Albin, 22 May (DK), and 1 New Albin, 30 May (FM).
- Snowy Egret:** 1 at L. Manawa on 1 May (+PB fide TB); 1 at New Albin on 30 May (+FM).
- Black-crowned Night Heron:** 1 was reported from L. Manawa on 24 Mar. (Ruth Green fide TS), a record early date. A rookery established at Rush L., Osceola Co., in 1981 was flourishing with 43 birds present (DHa).
- Yellow-crowned Night Heron:** 3 were at Otter Creek M. on 26 Apr. and 1 May (RKM,FM) and 1 at Lansing on 22 May (DK).
- Least Bittern:** Only three were reported: Cone M. on 18 May (JPS,JH), Hendrickson M. on 22 May (SD,KD fide JD), and Cardinal M. on 31 May (RKM,FM).
- American Bittern:** 1 caught, photographed, and banded at Weise S. on 10 Apr. (PP,LB,LL) is the third earliest date.
- White-throated Ibis:** 2 in breeding plumage were at Forney L. on 13-18 May (+TK,+RP, m.ob.).
- Mute Swan:** 2 were reported at Princeton M. on 11 Apr. (Henry Braunlich fide PP).
- Whistling Swan:** 8 were at Big Spirit L. on 7 Apr. (DHa) and 65 at New Albin on 10 Apr. (JSb).
- Greater White-fronted Goose:** 225 were at Cone M. on 27 Mar. (PW,FT); 3 were late at Forney L. on 16 May (BPa,LP).
- Snow Goose:** 2,000 was a large flock for eastern Iowa at Cone M. on 27 Mar. (PW,FT); 1 lingered at Hendrickson M. until 23 May (PM).
- Ross' Goose:** 1 was documented at Willow S. on 28 Mar. (+FM); others were reported from DeSoto NWR on 17, 18 Mar. (TB,BPa,BJR) and w. of Shenandoah on 3 Apr. (RP).
- American Wigeon:** 600 were at Little Clear L., Pocahontas Co., on 1 Apr. (MBre); 2 were at Willow S. on 31 May (BLW).
- American Black Duck:** 6 at Riverton WA on 20 Mar. were considered unusual for spring (WRS); 1 paired with a drake Mallard was seen at Iowa City on 7 May (TK).
- Cinnamon Teal:** 1 was at Big M. on 5 Apr. (RKM,FM,RuH).
- Canvasback:** 1,000 were at Little Clear L., Pocahontas Co., on 1 Apr. (MBre).
- Greater Scaup:** 5 s. of Council Bluffs on 5-13 Mar. (TB,m.ob.); 1 near Shenandoah on 20 Mar. (WRS); 1 s. of Council Bluffs on 28 Mar. (+FM); 4 at L. Macbride on 28 Mar. (TK) and 1 there on 31 Mar. (+CJB); 9 at Lansing on 10 Apr. (+JSb); and 4 at Nashua on 12 Apr. (+JSb).
- Lesser Scaup:** 10,000 were noted on the Mississippi R. in Lee Co. on 10 Apr. (JR) and 5,000 at Coralville Res. on 14 Apr. (TK). A pair was still at Willow S. on 31 May (BLW).
- Oldsquaw:** 1 was at Willow S. on 22 Mar. (BLW).
- White-winged Scoter:** 1 was at Saylorville Res. on 8 Apr. (+JSb) and 1 at Booneville, Dallas Co., on 22 Apr. (+RMO).
- Common Goldeneye:** 1,000 were noted on the Mississippi R. at Burlington on 9 Mar. (CJB). Late females (2 each) were at Forney L. on 14 May and SE Clay Co. on 11 May (TK,WRS,TStau).
- Hooded Merganser:** 2 were early s. of Council Bluffs on 13 Mar. (TB, m. ob.).
- Red-breasted Merganser:** 100 were at Red Rock Res. on 13 Apr. (RT); 8 were late at Pleasant Creek Res. on 13 May (PW,FT); and late females were at Forney L. on 14 May (TK,WRS,TStau) and Rock Valley on 8 May (JV).



## VULTURES THROUGH TURKEY

**Turkey Vulture:** The earliest was in Floyd Co. on 23 Mar. (PW).

**Osprey:** 3 were seen along the Big Sioux R. in Lyon, Sioux, and Plymouth Cos. on 12 May (TK, WRS, TStau).

**Bald Eagle:** Counts by air along the Mississippi R. from Davenport to Burlington were 113 on 3 Mar., 217 on 10 Mar., 150 on 17 Mar., and 4 on 24 Mar. (PP). In western Iowa, 25 were at DeSoto NWR on 14 Mar. (MM) and one lingered south of there in Pottawattamie Co. to the quite late date of 2 May (BP, LP). An immature was also late on 22 May at New Albin (DK, JSb), an area where nesting may occur.

**Northern Goshawk:** Details were given for one at Bays Branch on 11 Apr. (RC) and another was reported from Sweet M. on 10 Apr. (+FM, RKM, RuH). There was a delayed report from Plymouth Co. for 13 Feb. (+Larry Farmer).

**Cooper's Hawk:** There were 9 reports from 18 Mar. to 11 May.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** Harlan's Hawks were reported from Dickinson Co. on 23 Apr. (DHa) and Lacey-Keosauqua SP on 24 Apr. (JPS) and a probable Krider's Hawk from Mills Co. from 13 Mar. to 10 Apr. (BLW).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** Reports were from Sweet M. on 22 Apr. (FM), Dudgeon P. on 23 Apr. (FM), and Lansing on 22 May (DK) and 30 May (FM).

**Broad-winged Hawk:** Individuals were noted at Ames on 14 May (JD), at Wildcat Den SP on 25 May (CJB), and at Ledges SP on 28 May (CJB).

**Swainson's Hawk:** Early dates were 9 Apr. at Amana (CJB) and 10 Apr. in Sioux Co. (JV). A pair was at a nest in Osceola Co. on 25 Apr. for the fourth year (DBi) and another pair returned for nesting at Cedar Falls (FM). Other reports were from Lyon, Monona, Pottawattamie, Mills, and Polk Cos.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** 2 were late in Davis Co. on 18 Apr. (FM) and 1 was very late in E. Linn Co. on 11 May (+JPS).

**Golden Eagle:** Undocumented reports were from Winneshiek Co. on 20 Mar. (imm, JSb, AB), Forney L. on 22 Mar. (ad., MM), and Larchwood, Lyon Co., on 12 Apr. (DHa).

**Peregrine Falcon:** The only reported sighting was s. of Colo, Story Co. on 9 May (+PM).

**Merlin:** 1 was seen in e. Winneshiek Co. on 11 Apr. (+JSb). There were two other undocumented reports. Falcons other than American Kestrel must be documented to be included in these reports.

**American Kestrel:** Migration peaks were noted as follows: 50 in Fremont Co. on 20 Mar. (WRS), 19 in Guthrie Co. on 25 Mar. (RC), 27 in Lyon, Osceola, and O'Brien Cos. on 31 Mar. (DHa), and abundant in Sioux Co. on 1-14 Apr. (JV). A nest in a Wood Duck house with 2 young was found at DeSoto NRW on 28 May (JR).

**Ruffed Grouse:** 1 was out of range at George Wyth SP on 11 Apr. (FM).

**Common Bobwhite:** Counts in NE Mills Co. were greatly reduced (BLW).

**Gray Partridge:** There were two reports from Story Co.: s.e. of Colo on 8 May (BPr, MP, RSo) and n. of Ames on 23 May (JD).

**Wild Turkey:** 1 was in NE Mills Co. on 26 Mar. (BLW).

## CRANES THROUGH TERNS

**Sandhill Crane:** 250 were reported s. of Inwood, Lyon Co., on 10 Apr. (Dick Tellier fide DHa).

**King Rail:** 1 was reported from the same location as last year at Dewey's Pasture (+RJ).

**Virginia Rail:** 1 on 17 Apr. at Dewey's Pasture, Clay Co., is a record early date (RJ fide JD). On 23 May 1 was at Muskrat S. (TK).

- Sora:** Early dates were 16 Apr. at Iowa City (TK), 17 Apr. at Dewey's Pasture (RJ fide JD), and 21 Apr. at L. Manawa (PBa fide TB). Peak counts were 30 at Hendrickson M. on 2 May (PM) and 20 at Iowa City on 7-8 May (JPS).
- Yellow Rail:** 1 was seen at Muskrat S. on 1 May (+CB, +TK).
- Black Rail:** 1 was flushed at Hendrickson M. on 24 Apr. and 1 May (++)PM). Another was heard briefly at Sycamore S. in Iowa City at 7 a.m. and 11 p.m. on 6 May (+TStau) and said to have been seen during the day (JF fide TStau).
- Common Gallinule:** Reports were from Johnson Co. on 2 May (TStau), Sweet M. on 14 May (RKM,FM), and New Albin on 22 May (DK).
- American Avocet:** 9 at Amana L. on 18 Apr. (CJB) ties the second earliest date. Other reports were 25 at Coralville Res. on 25 Apr. (CJB), 4 at Shenandoah on 30 Apr. (RP), 1 at Lost Island L. on 1 May, and 1 at Riverton WA on 13-14 May (WRS, TStau, TK).
- Semipalmated Plover:** There were two record early dates: w. of Shenandoah on 3 Apr. (numerous; RP) and 6 s. of Forney L. on 7 Apr. (TB et al).
- Piping Plover:** Reports of this blue-listed species were from Council Bluffs on 17 Apr. (BP, LP), Hickory Grove P., Story Co., on 21-22 Apr. (HZ, JR), DeSoto NWR on 22 Apr. (BP, LP), Riverton WA on 24 Apr. (RKM, FM, WRS), and Coralville Res. on 24 Apr. (JPS, JH).
- Lesser Golden Plover:** 2 were at Cone M. on 13 Mar. (TStau), a record early date. The peak count was 700 on 7 May in Scott Co. (PP).
- Black-bellied Plover:** 1 at Trumbull L., Clay Co., on 25 Apr. (RC) is the third earliest on record. On 11 May 4 were seen in Calhoun Co. (TK, WRS, TStau), and on 13 May 5 were in Linn Co. (PW, FT).
- Hudsonian Godwit:** 3 s. of Forney L. on 7 Apr. (TB et al) represents the second earliest date. There were numerous other reports with peak count of 41 in Greene and Calhoun Cos. on 11 May (TK, WRS, TStau) and latest date of 23 May e. of Colo (PM).
- Marbled Godwit:** Following the trend of the last two years, this species continues to be reported from widely scattered localities in small numbers (1-5). A 3 Apr. record early date w. of Shenandoah included observation of the cinnamon wing lining (RP). S. of Forney L. 2 were flushed on the third early date of 7 Apr. (TB et al). Others were 2 at Hendrickson M. on 17 Apr. (HZ), 2 at Coralville Res. on 22 Apr. (TStau, TK, see photo), 1 s. of Council Bluffs on 24 Apr. (+RKM, FM, WRS), 1 at Little Wall L. on 1 May (JR, JSb), 5 in Story Co. on 2 May (PM), 1 w. of Shenandoah on 7 May (RP), 1 at Coralville Res. on 13 May (PW, FT), and 1 at DeSoto NWR on 19 May (JR).



Marbled Godwits, Coralville Res., 2 Apr. 1982  
Photo by T. H. Kent



- Upland Sandpiper:** It is difficult to evaluate isolated reports of this species, but they were most frequently mentioned from NW Iowa counties: Emmet (DHe), Pocahontas (RC), Lyon (DHa), Osceola (DHa), and Sioux (JV).
- Greater Yellowlegs:** 2 in Harrison Co. on 23 May represent a record late date (JR).
- Lesser Yellowlegs:** The early April snow storms may have held back the migration of this species producing massive influxes of 1,100 at Riverton WA on 24 Apr (WRS) and 700 (counted) at Coralville Res. on 19 Apr. (TK) and 1,000 (estimated) there on 24 Apr. (PW).
- Solitary Sandpiper:** Singles were early in Story Co. on 16 Apr. (JR) and on 18 Apr. at Princeton M. (PP).
- Willet:** 1 s. of Forney L. on 7 Apr. (TB et al) is a third earliest date. Other reports: 22 Apr. 1 at Nashua (FM); 26 Apr., 2 w. of Shenandoah (JB fide RP); 27 Apr., 4 at Cherokee (MBre) and 6 at Iowa City (TStau); 30 Apr., 18 at Cherokee (DBi); 3 May, 1 at Amana L. (LH fide CJB).
- Spotted Sandpiper:** 1 at Lacey-Keosauqua SP on 18 Apr. (JPS) is the earliest record. Another was early at Hendrickson M. on 25 Apr. (JR).
- Ruddy Turnstone:** 1 at Cherokee on 1 Jun (MBre) and 1 at Hendrickson M. on 31 May (BPr, MPr) are the second and third latest dates. Others were 1 w. of Shenandoah on 13 May (BWa fide RP), 4 at Riverton WA on 14 May (TK, WRS, TStau), and 1 at Hendrickson M. on 22 May (SD, KD fide JD).
- Northern Phalarope:** 3 were e. of Colo on 23 May (PM) and 1 s. of Cherokee on 30 May (MBre), the latter representing the third latest record.
- American Woodcock:** 1 was early at Orange City on 17 Mar. (GB fide JV). Nests with 4 eggs were found in Washington Co. on 24 Apr. (RHo) and Martin Access, Cherokee Co., on 1 May (DBi). The latter hatched on 15 May. Three downy young were at Amana on 5 May (RHo).
- Dowitcher sp.:** 1 was at Hendrickson M. on 10 Apr. (PM) and 3 were at Ingham L. on 23 May (DHe) for early and late dates. Peak count was 100 w. of Shenandoah on 6 May (JB fide RP). Unless I am convinced of species identification by details provided, dowitchers will be reported as *Dowitcher sp.* See *Iowa Bird Life* 50:59-68, 1980 for details.
- Short-billed Dowitcher:** 1 was seen in Hardin Co. on 1 May (JR) and 11 were in SE Clay Co. on 11 May (TK).
- Long-billed Dowitcher:** 1 was at Coralville Res. on 22 Apr. (TStau) and 3 at Riverton WA on 1 May (BLW).
- Sanderling:** 2 s. of Council Bluffs on 24 Apr. (RKM, FM, WRS) represent the third earliest record. Another was seen at Riverton WA on 13 May (TK, WRS, TStau).
- Western Sandpiper:** 2 were reported from Nashua on 2 May (FM).
- White-rumped Sandpiper:** 100's were at Riverton WA on 13-14 May (TK, WRS, TStau).
- Baird's Sandpiper:** 2 s. of Council Bluffs on 24 Mar. (TB, BP, BJR) is a record early date and 8 w. of Shenandoah of 3 Apr. (RP, MSP) is the third earliest date. Others were 4 s. of Council Bluffs on 7 Apr. (TB, BPa, BJR), 3 e. of Colo on 24 Apr. (JSb), 6 at Coralville Res. on 10 May (TK et al), 55 in Muscatine and Clinton Cos. on 13 May (PP, JH), and 6 at Credit I. on 15 May (PP).
- Dunlin:** 3 s. of Forney L. on 7 Apr. (TB et al) and an unstated number at L. Manawa on 13 Apr. (BLW) are the second and third earliest on record. Other early ones were 2 in winter plumage at Coralville Res. on 22 Apr. (TStau). Peak counts were 50-60 at Ingham L. (DHe) and 125 at Colo on 23 May (HZ).
- Glaucous Gull:** A second year bird at L. Manawa on 19 Mar. (+ RKM) stayed until 24 Mar. (TB, m. ob.).
- Ring-billed Gull:** The migration of this species was well delineated with early date

of 20 at L. Manawa on 13 Mar. (TB, BPa), peaks of 500 at L. Manawa on 23 Mar. (TB, BPa), 1900 in Marion and Polk Cos. on 27 Mar. (JR, JSb), several thousand at Saylorville Res. on 28 Mar. (JD), 1100 counted in Johnson Co. on 28 Mar. (TK), and 3 late immatures in Linn and Jones Cos. on 23 May (TK, CJB, TStau).

**Franklin's Gull:** The earliest was at L. Manawa on 20 Mar. (BPa, LP), peak was 118 near Ruthven on 25 Apr. (RC), and latest was at L. Manawa on 5 May (BPa, LP).



Franklin's Gull, Coralville Res., 22 Apr. 1982

Photo by T. H. Kent

**Bonaparte's Gull:** 1 at Lock 13 in breeding plumage on 20 Mar. (PP) is a record early date.

**Forster's Tern:** 4 at L. Manawa on 13 Apr. (TB, BPa, BJR) are the second earliest record. Singles were early at Hendrickson M. on 16 Apr. (JR) and Cedar L. (PW) and Dewey's Pasture on 17 Apr. (RJ fide JD).

**Common Tern:** Details were given for 1 on the second latest date at Cardinal M. on 31 May (RKM, FM). Others with details provided were 4 at Pickerel L., Buena Vista Co., on 11 May (TK, WRS, TStau), 11 at Davenport on 21 May (PP), and 1 at Cardinal M. on 31 May (FM, RKM).

**Caspian Tern:** The earliest and latest were singles at Hendrickson M. on 1 and 24 May (PM) and 4 at Lock 15 on 24 May (PP).

**Black Tern:** 1 at Coralville Res. on 1 May (CJB et al) is the third earliest.

#### PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** 1 was early on 10 May at Wildcat Dean SP (PP).

**Barn Owl:** One was found dead s. of Ft. Atkinson, Winneshiek Co. on 28 Nov. 1981 (+ Art Jenison, specimen at Iowa State University).

**Snowy Owl:** Reports in Story Co. 2 miles n. of Gilbert on 24 Mar. (Steve Lekwa fide JD) and 2 miles w. of Nevada on 25 Mar. (+ DR) could have been the same bird.

**Burrowing Owl:** 1 was photographed s. of Archer, O'Brien Co., on 13 Apr. (+ R. Harms—photo).

**Long-eared Owl:** Late birds were in Johnson Co. in late Apr. (TStau) and Oak Grove P., Sioux Co., on 14 May (GB fide JV). A nest has been followed since 21 Apr. in Winneshiek Co. (RPB, CAB).

**Short-eared Owl:** 1-7 were at Hayden Pr. from 3 Mar. to 24 Apr. (RPB, CAB, DK). Others were at Riverton WA on 27 Mar. (FM), L. Manawa on 17 Apr. (BPa, LP), and DeSoto NWR on 22 Apr. (TB, BPa).

**Saw-whet Owl:** 1 was at George Wyth SP on 27 Mar. (RKM).



**Chuck-will's-widow:** The only report was of 3 at the well-established location at Waubonsie SP on 14 May (TK,WRS,TStau).

**Common Nighthawk:** 1 at Ames on 7 May (JD).

**Chimney Swift:** The early date was 15 Apr. at Council Bluffs (BLW).

**Common Flicker:** A Red-shafted Flicker was seen at Cherokee on 23 Apr. (MBr).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 3 were reported at Cherokee on 20 May and possibly nesting (DBi). One at Davenport on 7 Mar. may have been overwintering (PP).

#### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH STARLING

**Western Kingbird:** Central Iowa records were from Greene Co. on 11 May (TK, WRS,TStau) and NE Polk Co. on 24 May (+DMos).

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** 1 was seen at Waubonsie SP on 24 Apr. (+WRS, +RKM, +FM).

**Eastern Phoebe:** Barb Wilson surveyed 18 old bridges in Anderson Township of Mills Co. and found 10 new phoebe nests, 8 of which had eggs on 8 May. New bridges, which are being built at a slow rate in Mills Co., are unsuitable for nesting.

**Say's Phoebe:** 2 birds were seen and heard from the road at the Plymouth Co. nesting site (TK, WRS, TStau).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** There were seven sight records, all with good details, including 3 heard from 17 to 28 May from Louisa, Scott, Johnson, Story and Boone Cos., (PP,MLP,TStau,PM,CJB).

**Acadian Flycatcher:** In addition to the usual locations at Lacey-Keosauqua SP, Amana Woods, and Palisades-Kepler SP, 1 was heard at Hickory Hill P. in Iowa City on 17 May (TK,TStau), 1 was at Waterloo on 14 May (FM,RKM), and 1 was at Yellow River F. on 23 May (FM,RKM).

**Willow Flycatcher:** 1 was at Squaw Creek P., Linn Co., by 13 May (PW,FT).

**Alder Flycatcher:** Birds with the fee-bee-o song were reported from Yellow River F. on 22 May (RKM,FM) from Hickory Hill P. in Iowa City on 26-30 May and first recording for the state made on the latter date (JH,JC,TK), from NE Mills Co. on 28 May (BLW) and others heard, but song not described, were Lansing WA on 29 May (JSb) and Volga River RA on 30 May (FM,RKM).

**Least Flycatcher:** 1 was still in NE Mills Co. on 28 May (BLW).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Several were reported from 9 to 31 May.

**Tree Swallow:** 20 Mar. records from Riverton WA (RKM) and Hendrickson M. are the second earliest records.

**Rough-winged Swallow:** 13 Apr. birds in w. Mills and Pottawattamie Cos. (BLW) are second earliest records; 5 at Lacey-Keosauqua SP on 18 Apr. (JPS) were also early.

**Barn Swallow:** A record early bird was at Riverton WA on 20 Mar. (RKM). Other early ones were 17 Apr. in SW Iowa (BLW) and 18 Apr. in Boone and Greene Cos. (JR).

**Cliff Swallow:** Iowa City birds appeared on 24 Apr. (RHo), a second earliest date.

**Purple Martin:** Early arrivals were at Saylorville Res. on 28 Mar. (MR fide JD) and Sioux Center on 1 Apr. (JV). Several died in the April snowstorms in Polk Co. (DMos).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** As usual, a number were seen in the first week of May and the following were reported from the second week: 14 May at George Wyth SP and Sweet M. (RKM), and 12-13 May in Ames (JD,PM). Much more outstanding was 1 on 30 May in Cedar Rapids, a record late date (PW).

**Carolina Wren:** 1 was seen at Hickory Hill P. on 14 May (RHo) and a probable one was at Sioux Center on 20 May (JV). Apparently neither was heard. This species should make a return to Iowa over the next few years.

**Marsh Wren:** One was early at Otter Creek M. on 26 Apr. (FM).

**Sedge Wren:** 1 was at Willow S. on 25 Apr. (FM), a record early date.

**Northern Mockingbird:** Late Apr. and May reports were from the following counties: Story (JR,PM), Johnson (JPS,JH), Muscatine (PP), Sac (LK), Louisa (JPS), Sioux (TK,WRS,TStau), Iowa (CJB), Mills (AS fide TB), and Marion (RT).

**American Robin:** Robins were trapped in the April snowstorms with over 1,000 huddled along roads in Iowa Co. on 4 Apr. (TK,CJB,LH).

**Varied Thrush:** One at Waterloo on 11 Apr. (+RKM, +FM) is the second latest date.

**Wood Thrush:** 1 at Davenport on 24 Apr. (MLP fide PP) is the second earliest date; 1 was at Ft. Defiance SP in NW Iowa on 20 May (DHe).

**Eastern Bluebird:** 35 were at St. Lucas on 16 Mar. (JSb).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** 1 at Ledges SP on 14 Apr. (JR) is the second earliest date. Other early arrivals were 1 at Wildcat Den SP on 17 Apr. (LB fide PP) and 5-10 at Lacey-Keosauqua SP on 18 Apr. (JPS). Nest building was noted at Wildcat Den S.P. 1 May (PP) and Grammar Grove P. on 14 May (BP). One at Waubonsie SP on 15 May was considered unusual (WRS).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** There were only three reports.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** 1 at Davenport on 25 May (PP) tied the second latest date.

**Water Pipit:** 1-3 were noted from six localities from late Mar. to early May.

**Bohemian Waxwing:** 1 was at Cherokee at 12 Mar. (+DBi).

**Northern Shrike:** 1 at Cone M. on 9 Mar. was heard (CJB); 1 on 23 Mar. at Willow S. in SW Iowa (detail, BLW) was unusual. NE Iowa birds were last seen on 21 Mar. (JSb) and 22 Mar. at Sweet M. (details, RKM).

**Loggerhead Shrike:** Nests were noted at Otter Creek P., Tama Co., on 1 May (RKM) and w. of Tiffin, Johnson Co., from 18 Apr. to late May (CJB).

#### VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS

**White-eyed Vireo:** 1-2 at George Wyth SP on 14 May (RKM,FM), w. of Coralville on 17 May (TStau), Volga L. on 18 May (JSb), Sigourney on 20 May (JPS), Monona Co. on 23 May (JR), and Hickory Hill P. on 27 May (TStau).

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** 1 was in Emmet Co. on 17 May (DHe).

**Solitary Vireo:** 1 in Ames on 24 Apr. (PM) ties the record early date.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** Early and late dates were 24 Apr. at Dolliver SP (JR) and 30 May at Amana (RHo).

**Prothonotary Warbler:** 1 at Otter Creek M. on 26 Apr. (FM) was a record early date; 1 was noted at Marble L., Dickinson Co. on 25 May (LF fide DHa).

**Worm-eating Warbler:** Unusual locations were Ames on 19 May (PM), Pine L., Hardin Co., on 13 May (BPr, RS) and Yellow River F. on 23 May (RKM,FM).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** 1 on 26 May at Amana (TStau) is the second latest record.

**Blue-winged Warbler:** 1 was at Ledges SP on 29 May (JD).

**Tennessee Warbler:** 1 at Waterloo on 21 Apr. (FM) was a record early date.

**Northern Parula Warbler:** Singles at Lacey-Keosauqua SP on 18 Apr. (JPS) and Ames on 19 Apr. (JD) were second and third early dates.

**Yellow Warbler:** A 24 Apr. bird at Riverton WA (WRS,RKM,FM) tied the earliest date.

**Magnolia Warbler:** 1 was reported from Lacey-Keosauqua SP on 18 Apr. (+JPS), a record early date.

**Cape May Warbler:** There were 5 reports from 13-16 May, all from eastern Iowa except for 1 at Ames on 13-14 May (PM).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 1 at Des Moines on 31 Mar. (CL fide RL) is the third earliest date. Another was early at Ames on 7 Apr. (JD).

**Cerulean Warbler:** They were common at Lacey-Keosauqua SP by 2 May (JPS),



tying third earliest date.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** 2 were seen in Emmet Co. on 22 May (DHe).

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** 1 arrived at Ledges SP on 14 Apr. (JR), a second early date, and stayed for many to see at the IOU Convention on 9 May. On 18 Apr. Jim Sandrock found 13 at Lacey-Keosauqua SP and Roberts Riverside P. n. of Keosauqua, the best sites for this species in Iowa. Another was seen in Walnut Woods SP s.e. of Des Moines on 3 May (MBro,CS).

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** 1 was reported at Lacey-Keosauqua SP on 18 Apr. (+JPS), two weeks earlier than the previous early date.

**Pine Warbler:** 1 was seen for 30 minutes in SE Linn Co. on 27 Apr. (WN), a third early date.

**Prairie Warbler:** 1 was at Lansing WA on 23, 24, 30 May (+RKM, +FM).

**Palm Warbler:** 1 was at Lizard L. on 24 Apr. (RC) for a third early date.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** 1 at Ledges SP on 2 Apr. (+JR) documented another record early date. Others were at usual locations except for 1 at Dolliver SP, Webster Co., on 24 Apr. (JR).

**Kentucky Warbler:** This species did not arrive early, but was much more widespread than usual with records from Monona Co. on 23 May (JR), Sunken Grove, Pocahontas Co., on 15 May (RC), Ames on 4, 18 May (JSb, PM, HZ), George Wyth SP on 14 May (FM, RKM), Amana on 14 May (CJB), and Hickory Hill P. in Iowa City on 30 May (TK, JH, JC).

**Connecticut Warbler:** There were seven reports from 12 May at Ames (HZ) to 25 May at Grammar Grove SP (BPr, RS).

**Mourning Warbler:** 1 was early at Amana on 9 May (LH fide CJB).

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** Eastern Iowa reports were from Iowa City, Squaw Creek P., Dudgeon L., Waterloo, and Yellow River F.

**Hooded Warbler:** Reports were from Liscomb, Marshall Co., on 5 May (BP) and Ames on 7 May (HZ).

**American Redstart:** 1 was early at Springbrook SP on 3 May (RL).

#### MEADOWLARKS THROUGH BUNTINGS

**Brewer's Blackbird:** There were eight reports but only two with identifying details: 2 on 26 Mar. in NE Mills Co. (BLW) and 6 on 27 Mar. at Cone M. (TK, m. ob.)

**Summer Tanager:** There were three unusual northern records: a first-year male on 5, 6 May in SE Linn Co. (WN, m. ob.), a female at the same location on 16 May (WN), and 1 on 16 May in N. Marshall Co. (RS fide BPr). The more usual southern records were at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (JPS), Camp Wesley Woods, Warren Co. (CL fide RL), and Waubonsie SP (WRS, TStau, TK).

**Black-headed Grosbeak:** A female at Amana on 10 May with a buffy-chestnut throat and breast, relatively narrow streaking, and white eye stripe was 5 on a scale of 0 (Rose-breasted) to 8 (Black-headed) (+WRS, +TK, CB, TStau). A female was reported at Rush L., Palo Alto Co., on 20 May had no streaking on a yellow-orange breast (+R Harms, AS). These reports will be reviewed by the Records Committee.

**Blue Grosbeak:** 1 in NE Mills Co. on 8 May (BLW) ties the second earliest date.

**Evening Grosbeak:** The only report was a late pair at Wellman on 2 May (+RE).

**Purple Finch:** Late dates reported were 1 May at Pine L. (NS fide BPr) and 4 May at Ames (PM).

**Hoary Redpoll:** Photos were submitted of one at Laurens, Pocahontas Co., on 2 Mar. (+R. Harms—photos). These will be reviewed by the Records Committee.

- Common Redpoll:** A number of contributors noted last dates with many extending to late Mar. and two into Apr.: 1 Apr. at Pocahontas (RC,WJ) and 8 Apr. at Davenport (PP). The latter is the second latest date.
- Pine Siskin:** Pine Siskin were common with many reports into mid-May with some still present at a feeder in Iowa City (TK) and in Davenport on 31 May (PP). A nest with 3 eggs at Davenport on 27 Apr. was later predated (BB fide PP) and a nest with eggs was found in Ames in early May (JD).
- Red Crossbill:** Nest building was noted at Greenwood P. in Des Moines on 22-25 Apr. but the nest was destroyed on 30 Apr. (MBro). This would have been the first Iowa nesting of crossbills. Other reports were 2 at Iowa City on 27 Mar. (JPS,DJS) and 7 remaining at Cherokee until 15 May (DBi).
- White-winged Crossbill:** 3 were at Ingham L. on 14 Mar. (DHe, HW), 1 at Shenandoah on 18 Mar. (RP), and 2 at Iowa City on 17 Apr. (TK).
- Lark Bunting:** A male was seen w. of Tabor, Fremont Co., on 4 May (+RP).
- Henslow's Sparrow:** Reports were from Hickory Hill P. in Iowa City on 25 Apr. (+MAS) and Cone M. on 30 Apr. and 10 May (+TStau et al).
- LeConte's Sparrow:** Reports from eight localities in Apr. and early May.
- Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** 3 were well-studied and sang at Muskrat S. on 23, 24 May (+TK,TStau, +CJB, m. ob.)
- Vesper Sparrow:** 6 were at Amana in a snowstorm on 3 Apr. (CJB,LH,TK). A migration peak occurred on 9 Apr. when snow drove 75 to roadsides in Johnson and Louisa Cos. (TK).
- Lark Sparrow:** 1 was early on 21 Apr. in Cherokee Co. (MBre).
- Northern Junco:** The latest date was 30 Apr. at Pocahontas (RC).
- Chipping Sparrow:** The earliest was 14 Apr. at Ledges SP (JR).
- Fox Sparrow:** 1 on 7 Mar. in Ames was early (RM).
- Lincoln's Sparrow:** The latest was 27 May at Ames (PM).
- Song Sparrow:** A migration peak of 50 was noted at Iowa City on 24 Apr. (TStau).
- Lapland Longspur:** There were many reports from late Mar. to late Apr. with peak of 1,000 in Johnson Co. on 27 Mar. (TK et al) and latest of 50 in Story Co. on 25 Apr. (PM).







Smith's Longspur, near Lone Tree, 27 Mar. 1982

Photos by T. H. Kent

**Chestnut-collared Longspur:** James Huntington found a male in breeding plumage in NW Muscatine Co. near the Johnson Co. line on 4 Apr. (+JH) for the first well-documented record for Iowa. The record was accepted by the Records Committee. There are several old reports, all prior to 1939, but none are sufficiently detailed for positive identification.

**Smith's Longspur:** There were nine reports from six counties, seven in EC Iowa, two in central Iowa, and two in SW Iowa for this species which has been seen only three times in the last 50 years: 6 on 21 Mar., 4 miles n. of Red Oak, Montgomery Co. (+RKM); 30+ on 27 Mar. n.e. of Lone Tree on the Johnson-Muscatine Co. line (+MN, +RHo, +TK, see photos); 7 on 28 Mar. 2 miles n.w. of Red Oak (+FM); 200 on 30 Mar. n. of Lone Tree (+TStau); 1 in flock of 50-60 on 1 Apr. e. of Polk City, Polk Co. (+JSb); 16 and 9 on 6 and 9 Apr. s. of Nichols, Muscatine Co., (+TD, AH); 3 on 10 Apr. n. of Bettendorf, Scott Co. (+PP, m. ob.); 50 on 16 Apr. in NW Muscatine Co. on the Johnson Co. line (+CJB, +TK) which had been there since 4 Apr. (JH) and possibly since 27 Mar. (TK); and 2-3 on 18 Apr. at Larson's M., Story Co. (+PM).

**Snow Bunting:** Several were seen in Howard Co. on 9 Apr. (RAB, CAB).

+ equals Documented.

#### CONTRIBUTORS

Russell P. Baldner, Calmar; Carl J. Bendorf, Iowa City; Dick Bierman, Cherokee; Tanya Bray, Omaha, NE; Margaret Brooke, Des Moines; Marion Brewer, Cherokee; Raymond Cummins, Pocahontas; James Dinsmore, Ames; Timothy L. Dwyer, Muscatine; Ruth Eash, Wellman; Ione Getscher, Hamburg; Ronald Harms, Laurens; Douglas Harr, Larchwood; Dennis Henrickson, Estherville; Rick Hollis, Iowa City; James Huntington, Iowa City; Thomas Kent, Iowa City; Darwin Koenig, Montezuma; Lowell Konradi, Odebolt; Rene Laubach, Des Moines; Paul Martsching, Ames; Richard Mooney, Des Moines; Francis L. Moore, Waterloo; Dean Mosman, Elkhart; Mary Musgrove, Des Moines; Robert K. Meyers, Waterloo; Weir Nelson, Cedar Rapids; Michael C. Newlon, Iowa City; Babs Padelford, Bellevue, NE; Loren Padelford, Bellevue, NE; Peter Petersen, Davenport; Ruth Phipps, Shenandoah; Beth Proescholdt, Liscomb; John Robinson, Ames; Dean M. Roosa, Ames; James P. Sandroock, Iowa City; Joe Schaufenbuel, St. Lucas; Ann Sernett, Laurens; W. Ross Silcock, Malvern; Mark A. Snyder, Iowa City; Thomas Staudt, Iowa City; Robert Thornburg, Pleasantville; John Van Dyk, Sioux Center; Pete Wickham, Cedar Rapids; Barbara L. Wilson, Hastings; Hank Zaletel, Ames.

#### OTHER OBSERVERS

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Blevins (PP); Paul Bedell (TB); Jean Braley (RP); Gordon Brand (JV); Alan Branhagen (JSb); Henry Braunlich (PP); Don Bray (TB); John Cordell (TK, TStau); Steve Dinsmore (JD); Kraig Downs (JD); LaVonne Foote (DH); James Fuller (TStau); Ruth Green (TB); Alan Hahn (TD); Lanny Haldy (CJB); Phyllis Harris (BPr); Russell Hays (RKM,FM); Rex Johnson (JD); James Kovanda (TB); Sandy Kovanda (TB); Larry Linder (PP); Christyna Laubach (RL); Carol Newlon (TK); Mary Lou Petersen (PP); Mark Proescholdt (BPr); B. J. Rose (TB); Mark Ryan (JD); Donna J. Sandrock (JPS); Johanna K. Sandrock (JPS); Andy Saunders (TB); Charlotte Scott (MBro); Garnita Seward (BPr); Nancy Slife (BPr); Ramona Sommerlot (BPr); Marie Spears (RP); Phil Swanson (TB); Dick Tellier (DHa); Fred Thompson (PW); Betty Walters (RP); Harold White (DHe).

### COMMENTS

Perhaps the greatest success of the season was the Smith's Longspur survey even though only two groups conducted a formal survey as outlined in the December issue. Others were obviously out looking at longspurs in late March to mid-April as there were nine sightings reported. We do not know how many looked and did not find them. The findings suggest that this species may be a regular migrant through Iowa, but it is also possible that this was an unusually good year for longspurs. More Lapland Longspurs than usual were reported, and a Chestnut-collared Longspur was a great bonus to the Smith's Longspur search. This intense early spring longspur search should be continued at least until we define the frequency of Smith's Longspur and, it is hoped, find more Chestnut-collared Longspurs. Carl Bendorf, Lanny Haldy, and I attempted to survey fields near Amana in a snowstorm at 30 degrees with a 30 mph wind on 3 Apr. and lasted six minutes before retreating to the car, so my hat is off to the Laurens group (Ray Cummins, Judy Carlson, Rita Dewall, Dr. and Mrs. Ron Harms, Wallace Jardine, Philip Nowack, Joyce Rigby, and Mr. and Mrs. Ken Sernett) who braved similar winds on 4 Apr. to find 2 House Sparrows at the Laurens Airport and 19 Flickers, 1 Pheasant, 3 Kestrels, and some waterfowl at Reese's Pasture. The Davenport group in two parties covered much of Scott Co. by car and sampled small areas by foot on 10 Apr. The first party (Peter Petersen; Lewis, Corey, and Brian Blevins; Don and Jean Moeller; Jerry and Marilyn Aanes; Dick Hazel) found 3 Smith's Longspurs but the second party (Dr. and Mrs. Robert Graham; Larry and Judy Linder) was not so lucky.

Although the Smith's Longspur survey was the most targeted effort of the spring, other findings suggest group activities that could expand our knowledge of Iowa birds. For example, April birding in SE and SW Iowa produced a number of early records. The Sharp-tailed Sparrow is another species that might be found to be regular if marshy edge habitat could be surveyed in late May. Three were found at Muskrat Slough on 23 May in a single targeted effort to find this species. Two Black Rail sightings suggest the need to better define the status of this species in Iowa, but we will have to find an easier way of locating it, if it's there at all.

My thanks to the many individuals who contributed excellent reports, including several new ones. My job is getting harder, so there must be more coming in. Rick Hollis contributed an evening for compiling data and without this and Donna Sandrock's typing I would be sunk. There were a few important sightings reported to the birdline that were not reported to me or had insufficient documentation. Everyone who sees an accidental, very rare, or very early or late bird should make field notes and submit a documentation in order to further our knowledge of Iowa rarities.